

I. AMENDMENT

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1 – 53. (Canceled)

54. (Previously presented) A method of screening for a biological response comprising:

- a) obtaining a linear or circular expression element by a process comprising:
obtaining a DNA segment comprising an open reading frame and *in vitro* linking the open reading frame to a promoter to create a linear or circular expression element; and
- b) providing the linear or circular expression element to a cell without intervening bacterial propagation or cloning, under conditions conducive to expression of any product encoded for by the open reading frame, such that a biological response is produced in the cell.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the DNA segment is obtained from a process involving PCR.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the open reading frame is non-covalently linked to the promoter.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the non-covalent linkage is performed by:

- a) obtaining a PCR product comprising the open reading frame, which PCR product is obtained by amplification from at least one primer that has complementary stretches comprising deoxyuridines which have been

cleaved by uracil-DNA glycosylase to create overhangs to which the promoter and terminator can link;

- b) providing a promoter and a terminator; and
- c) non-covalently linking the promoter and the terminator to the open reading frame to create the linear or circular expression element.

58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the linear or circular expression element is injected into the cell.

59. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[59]]~~54, wherein a second linear or circular expression element comprising a second open reading frame having a different sequence is introduced into the cell.

60. (Currently amended) The method of claim 108, ~~defined as a method of producing antibodies~~ wherein the biological response is production of antibodies.

61. (canceled)

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 108, wherein the animal is a mammal.

63 – 96.(Canceled)

97. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the DNA segment is obtained from a process involving chemical synthesis.

98. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the linear or circular expression element further comprises a terminator linked to the open reading frame.

99. (Previously presented) The method of claim 98, wherein obtaining the expression element further comprises non-covalently linking a terminator to the open reading frame.

100. (Previously presented) The method of claim 98, wherein the terminator is a eukaryotic terminator.

101. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the open reading frame is produced *in vivo* and then non-covalently linked to the promoter *in vitro*.
102. (canceled)
103. (canceled)
104. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the promoter is a eukaryotic promoter.
105. (Canceled)
106. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the cell is in a tissue culture.
107. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the cell is in an organism.
108. (Previously presented) The method of claim 107, wherein the organism is an animal.
109. (Previously presented) The method of claim 58, wherein the injection is performed using microprojectile bombardment.